Message Text

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R 021410Z AUG 78 FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000 INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR RUFHMDXAMEMBASSY MADRID 613 AMEMBASSY RABAT

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ETRN, MR

SUBJ: TAXATION OF INSTRUMENTS OF FOREIGN COMMERCE

REF: STATE 191803

- 1. ACCORDING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR NOUAKCHOTT AIRPORT, TAXATION ON FOREIGN FLAG AIR CARRIERS CONSISTS OF LANDING FEES AND FREIGHT TAX. LANDING FEE DETERMINED BY WEIGHT OF PLANE AND NATURE OF FLIGHT, INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS BEING MORE EXPENSIVE. AS EXAMPLE, PAN AM BOEING 707 LANDING HERE WOULD BE CHARGED 40,844 UM OR 909 DOLLARS US WHERAS INTERNAL FLIGHTS BY SAME SIZE 150 TON AIR PLANE WOULD BE 22,268 UM OR 495 DOLLARS US.
- 2. ALL FOREIGN CARRIERS TREATED EQUALLY, EVEN AIR
 AFRIQUE, WHICH IS PARTLY OWNED BY CONSORTIUM OF WEST
 AFRICAN COUNTRIES INCLUDING MAURITANIA. EXCEPTIONS
 ARE MADE FOR ONLY ON CLASS OF CARRIERS, GOVERNMENTAL
 (INCLUDING MILITARY) AIRCRAFT BELONGING TO ANY OF
 TWELVE ASECNA (AGENCE POUT LA SECURITE DE LA NAVIGATION
 AERIENNE EN AFRIQUE) MEMBER COUNTRIES. EXEMPTIONS
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FROM THIS TAX ARE ALSO MADE ON AN EXCEPTIONAL BASIS FOR PARTICULAR FLIGHTS SUCH AS EMERGENCY RELIEF FLIGHTS.

NO EXEMPTIONS AR MADE FOR PRIVATE OR GOVERNMENT OWNED COMMERCIAL CARRIERS HOWEVER.

3. MAURITANIA ALSO IMPOSES A TAX ON FREIGHT LANDED AT EACH AIRPORT. THERE ARE THREE RATE CATEGORIES, INTERNAL

CARGO AT 1 UM PER KILO, CARGO COMING FROM OR GOING TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES AT 2 UM PER KILO, AND CARGO FROM ALL OTHER COUNTRIES AT 4UM PER KILO. THIS TAX IS SEPARATE FROM CUSTOMS DUTIES AND APPLIES TO ALL NON-AFRICAN COUNTRIES WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION. THERE IS NO TAX ON FUEL.

- 4. WITH REGARD TO SHIPPING, FOREIGN FLAG VESSELS PAY SMALL PORT TAX IF THEY DISCHARGE AT NOUAKCHOTT WHARF, NONE AT ALL IF, AS IS USUALLY THE CASE, TENDERS ARE USED. NO TAXES IMPOSED ON CONTAINERS.
- 5. SINCE MAURITANIA HAS NO FLAG CARRIERS FOR SHIPPING, QUESTION OF RECIPROCITY DOES NOT ARISE. EVEN FOR MAURITANIA AIR CARRIER NO PROVISIONS FOR RETALIATORY PROVISIONS EXIST, ALTHOUGH IT IS PROBABLE GIRM WOULD RECIPROCATE IN EVENT OF ANY SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE IN TAX POLICY BY MOROCCO, SENEGAL OR SPAIN (ONLY THREE COUNTRIES TO WHICH AIR MAURITANIA NOW FLIES). KRYZA

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